

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 3, on page 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Plasmid pFN2 can be isolated from, e.g., *F. nucleatum* ATCC strain deposit number PTA-5816, 10113 (a gift from S. Finegold, West Los Angeles, VA) deposited under the Budapest Treaty with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2209. Plasmid pFN2 is characterized by a length of about 7.2 kb and has partial restriction maps as shown in Figure 1A, 3 and 5. For the partial restriction map shown in Figure 1A, the number of cleavage sites for each restriction enzyme and the length of fragments generated by the restriction enzymes for pFN2 are as follows:

Please replace paragraph 1, on page 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Plasmid pFN3 can be isolated from, e.g., *F. nucleatum* ATCC strain deposit number PTA-5815, ATCC Accession No. 10953 deposited under the Budapest Treaty with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2209. Plasmid pFN3 is characterized by a length of about 11.1 kb and has a partial restriction map as shown in Figure 1A. The nucleotide sequence of plasmid pFN3 has been partially determined and is shown as SEQ ID NO: 14. The number of cleavage sites for each restriction enzyme and the length of fragments generated by the restriction enzymes for pFN3 are as follows:

Please replace paragraph 3, in Table 4, on page 35, with the following amended paragraph:

<i>F. nucleatum</i> 10113	Clns, clinical isolate, source of pFN2	S. Finegold, Wadsworth Anaerobe Lab, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA ( <u>strain available as strain deposit number PTA 5816 from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2209</u> ).
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Amdt. dated April 7, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2003

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Please replace paragraph 4, in Table 4, on page 35, with the following amended paragraph:

<i>F. nucleatum</i> ATCC 10953	Cln <sup>s</sup> , gingival isolate, source of pFN3	American Type Culture Collections, Rockville, MD ( <u>strain available as strain deposit number PTA 5815 from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2209).</u>
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